

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:IO:TALYNCH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 12761 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PARIS

TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK GENEVA NOV 16. QUOTE;

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 12761

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GC: PROF LEMAIRE'S COMMENTS ON JERUSALEM
EXCAVATIONS (ITEM 77)

1. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED ON NOV 16 DURING 30 MIN
CONVERSATION ACTING HEAD US DEL KAMM AND US DEL
GARVEY WITH PROF LEMAIRE (BELGIUM). PROF LEMAIRE
HAS VISITED JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS AS THE DIR GEN'S
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, TWO TIMES DURING PAST YEAR.

2. LEMAIRE'S VIEWS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ISSUE IS BASICALLY A
POLITICAL PROBLEM AND SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN
UNESCO. CONTROVERSY IS RELATED TO QUESTION OF
ISRAELI OCCUPATION WHICH ULTIMATELY CAN BE SETTLED ONLY
BY A PEACE TREATY. AN IMMEDIATE SOLUTION (WHICH
LEMAIRE HAS PROPOSED TO GOI) MIGHT BE CREATION
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OF AN INTERNATIONAL ZONE INCLUDING JERUSALEM WHICH

WOULD BE EASILY JUSTIFIABLE ON BASIS OF CULTURAL
SIGNIFICANCE.

3. CONSIDERING THAT CONTROVERSIAL EXCAVATIONS ARE
OF HIGH QUALITY AND PROFESSIONALLY DEFENSIBLE, AND
NOW EITHER CLOSED OR IN TERMINAL STAGES, ISRAEL IS
NOT DOING ALL IT COULD NOR MOVING QUICKLY ENOUGH TO
DIFFUSE TENSIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN OVER THIS SUBJECT.
THIS INFORMATION NOT LIKELY TO BE PUBLICIZED UNTIL
LEMAIRE CONDUCTS INSPECTION EARLY IN 1977 AND FILES
REPORT.

4. ISRAEL MIGHT RESPOND MORE CONSTRUCTIVELY AND
QUICKLY IF IT KNEW US MAY NOT AUTOMATICALLY COME TO
THEIR AID. MARSHALL
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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